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Director of NSA May Quit Service

United Press International

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10.—Lt. John A. Samford, 53, director of the National Security Agency, has just undergone a "serious operation" and may retire from military service, defense officials have disclosed.

The Air Force general has headed the secret agency since 1956. He will be succeeded in the post in November by Vice Adm. Laurence H. Frost, director of naval intelligence for the past four years.

The White House announced Adm. Frost's appointment to succeed Gen. Samford June 1, weeks before turncoat Bernon F. Mitchell and William A. Martin disappeared from their jobs at the agency and defected to Moscow.

Disclosure of Gen. Samford's illness came as a House armed services subcommittee announced it will open hearings Thursday into the defection of the two NSA code clerks. It summoned 11 government officials, including two from the super-secret Central Intelligence Agency, Gen. C. P. Cabell, deputy director, and Robert Bannerman, deputy director of security for the agency.

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